

Written Testimony of  
Louisa Trakas, Plainfield Town Clerk

**HB 5035, An Act Reducing Mandates for Municipalities**

February 22, 2012  
Planning & Development Committee

Good Morning. My name is Louisa Trakas and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerk Association. I have been the elected Town Clerk of The Town of Plainfield since November 2005.

I'm here to testify in support of the Governor's Bill 5035 with the additional language "No public agency may disclose, from their personnel and medical records..." This would leave no doubt that this would pertain to an agency's list of employees and medical records.

The Connecticut Town Clerks have testified against this legislation previously because we know that it will not be effective. There are many types of documents recorded by and housed in the Clerk's offices and they should be exempt from this legislation. Some of these documents include land records such as mortgages, probate certificates and variances, granted by the Planning & Zoning Commissions. Other documents include various election documents such as campaign finance forms and logs of absentee ballots issued.

Connecticut General Statute 1-217 must be amended as it would be impossible for a small town such as Plainfield to redact the information on these documents. This endeavor would cripple the small towns in Connecticut. It would take a lot of staff and a lot of money, neither of which is abundant in my town.

State and Town Police Officers as well as Corrections Officers living and working in my town often park their cars in their driveways, play on the local softball leagues, coach their children's athletic teams and pose for annual calendars. These highly respected men and women can easily be located with minimal effort. Though we agree that these people have serious concerns, unfortunately, we are sure that redacting their addresses from the documents recorded in the Town Clerk's office would not give them the protection they are seeking.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be pleased to take any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louisa R. Trakas, Plainfield Town Clerk